

## Message Text

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42

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 AF-04 NEA-07 DHA-02 DODE-00

NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00

/049 W

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O R 181843Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2270

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21206

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, ET

SUBJECT: CAMPBELL AND HARRELL

REF: PARIS 21113 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF VISITED LUCIEN BITTERLIN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE "ASSOCIATION DE SOLIDARITE FRANCO-ARABE, LATE AUGUST 18 AND RECEIVED COPY OF PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING AMERICAN PRISONERS IN ERITREA' CAMPBELL AND HARRELL, AS WELL AS RE-RECORDING OF THEIR TAPED INTERVIEW WITH BITTERLIN. ORIGINALS BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT FOR AFE.

2. ACCORDING QUAI MIDDLE EAST DEPUTY DIRECTOR SERVANT, PRESIDENT OF "ASSOCIATION DE SOLIDARITE FRANCO-ARABE" IS FORMER GOF INFORMATION MINISTER TERRENOIRE; BITTERLIN AND TERRENOIRE HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT. EMBOFF FOUND BITTERLIN COOPERATIVE AND INTELLIGENT. HE SAID HE HAD PASSED STORY ON INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPHS (WHICH WERE TAKEN BY PHOTOGRAPHER

FROM GAMMA AGENCY) TO NEWSWEEK PRESUMABLY FOR NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE. BITTERLIN REASSURED EMBOFF PER REFTTEL THAT STORY MAKES NO MENTION OF CAPTORS' DEMANDS.

3. BITTERLIN HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY OSMAN SALEH SABBE, WHOM HE CONSIDERS MODERATE. SABBE HAD SENT INSTRUCTIONS FROM BEIRUT TO KHARTOUM AUGUST 15 (APPARENTLY VIA PLO COMMUNICATIONS LINK) TELLING LOCAL COMMANDER TO PURSUE INTERROGATION OF TWO AMERICAN CAPTORS - AS WELL AS INVESTIGATION OF KAGNEW BASE OPERATIONS TO 'CHECK OUT' VERACITY OF CAMPBELL AND HARRELL - AND RELEASE THEM UNLESS INTERROGATION IMPLICATES THEM DIRECTLY IN ANTI-ERITREAN ACTIVITY.

4. BITTERLIN ADMITTED TO EMBOFF THAT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR PRISONERS RELEASE AND THAT SALEH SABBE MIGHT MEET WITH SOME RELUCTANCE ON PART OF LOCAL COMMANDER TO RELEASE CAMPBELL AND HARRELL WITHOUT QUID PRO QUO. BUT BITTERLIN IS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT PRISONERS WILL EVENTUALLY BE RELEASED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR CAPTORS ARE NOT SADISTIC AND MAY WELL BE SATISFIED TO HAVE GAINED SOME PUBLICITY FOR THEIR CAUSE.  
GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, BUSINESSMEN, PHOTOGRAPHS  
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**Draft Date:** 18 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, CASC, LE, ET, (CAMPBELL, STEVEN C), (HARRELL, JAMES J)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006